

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04094 240956Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /057 W
-----240958Z 072816 /10
R 231129Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2066

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 4094

FOLG SENT ACTION DELHI INFO BOMBAY MADRAS DATED MAR 23
RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 0702

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: COALITION "VICTORY RALLY IN CALCUTTA"

1. THE CPM-LEFT ALLIANCE/JANATA/CFD COALITION WHICH SWEPT THE ELECTIONS IN WEST BENGAL HELD A "VICTORY RALLY" AT CALCUTTA'S SAHID MINAR MAIDAN AFTERNOON MARCH 22. JANATA, CFD, CPM AND FORWARD BLOC AND RSP LEADERS SPOKE BUT THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE CPM AND ITS LEFT ALLIES (FORWARD BLOC AND RSP) WAS EVIDENT. THE PLATFORM WAS DRAPED IN RED AND TOPPED WITH A LARGE RED FLAG AND THE CROWD WAS IN LARGE PART CPM-LEFT ALLIANCE. OUR FSLs ESTIMATED THE CROWD AT OVER 100,000, LARGER THAN ANY DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

2. CPM AND JANATA/CFD LEADERS ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER ECONOMIC ISSUES BUT STRESSED UNITY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RESOTRATION OF DEMOCRACY. THOUGH NOT
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ACKNOWLEDGED, THERE WERE CLEAR DIFFERENCES IN THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE VARIOUS PARTY SPOKESMEN REGARDING THE FUTURE COURSE IN WEST BENGAL. FORWARD BLOC SPOKESMAN ASHOK GHOSH DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT AND DISSOLUTION OF THE STATE ASSEMBLY. CPM LEADER JYOTI BASU SAID THE CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN THE STATE HAD LOST ALL CREDIBILITY. BASU WAS VERY CRITICAL OF CHIEF MINISTER RAY.

BUT AS BEST OUR LOCALS COULD TELL HE DID NOT DIRECTLY CALL FOR RAY'S RESIGNATION OR FOR DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY. JANATA SPOKESMEN AND CFD LEADER BIJOY SINGH NAHAR STRESSED THE NEED FOR CAUTION AND CALLED ON PEOPLE TO "REFRAIN FROM COMMITTING EXCESSES." OUR FSLs REPORT THERE WAS A BRIEF SCUFFLE BETWEEN JANATA AND CPM ELEMENTS AT THE START OF THE RALLY AS THE TWO GROUPS, SHOUTING SLOGANS, TRIED TO OUTDO ONE ANOTHER.

3. OTHERWISE THE MEETING WAS PEACEFUL AND CAUSED ONLY MINOR DISRUPTIONS IN TRAFFIC. THERE WAS HOWEVER A MEDIUM SIZED TRUCK OVERTURNED ON THE RED ROAD, NOT FAR FROM SAHID MINAR MAIDAN. IT WAS LYING FLAT ON ITS BACK, WHEELS IN THE AIR AND CONTENTS SPILLED OVER THE ROAD, OBVIOUSLY HAVING BEEN LIFTED INTO THAT POSITION NOT BY ACCIDENT BUT BY A CROWD - PROBABLY OF PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO THE RALLY. SOMETHING NOT SEEN IN CALCUTTA FOR MORE THAN TWENTY MONTHS.
KORN UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PROVINCE, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY ALLIANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, IN
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